

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 6

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 13, 1941

Migration Of Labor Grows With Defense

Many Cities Are Overcrowded as Workers Flock to Seek Jobs in Defense Industries

OTHER DISLOCATIONS SEEN

Unemployment Growing in Nondefense Industries as a Result of the Shortage of Materials

As the United States moves ever more rapidly from a normal, peacetime way of doing business to a full war economy, profound changes are taking place in every city, town, and village of the nation. Not the least important of these changes is the shift of workers from one industry to another, from one locality to another, the unemployment of certain types of workers and the acute shortage of other types.

The migration of workers from one place to another is certainly nothing new in American history. Americans have always been on the move. From colonial days to the present, families have left one locality and moved to another in the hope of making a better living. The United States was settled by such migrations. The second half of the last century saw one of the greatest migrations in all history when the West was opened to settlement.

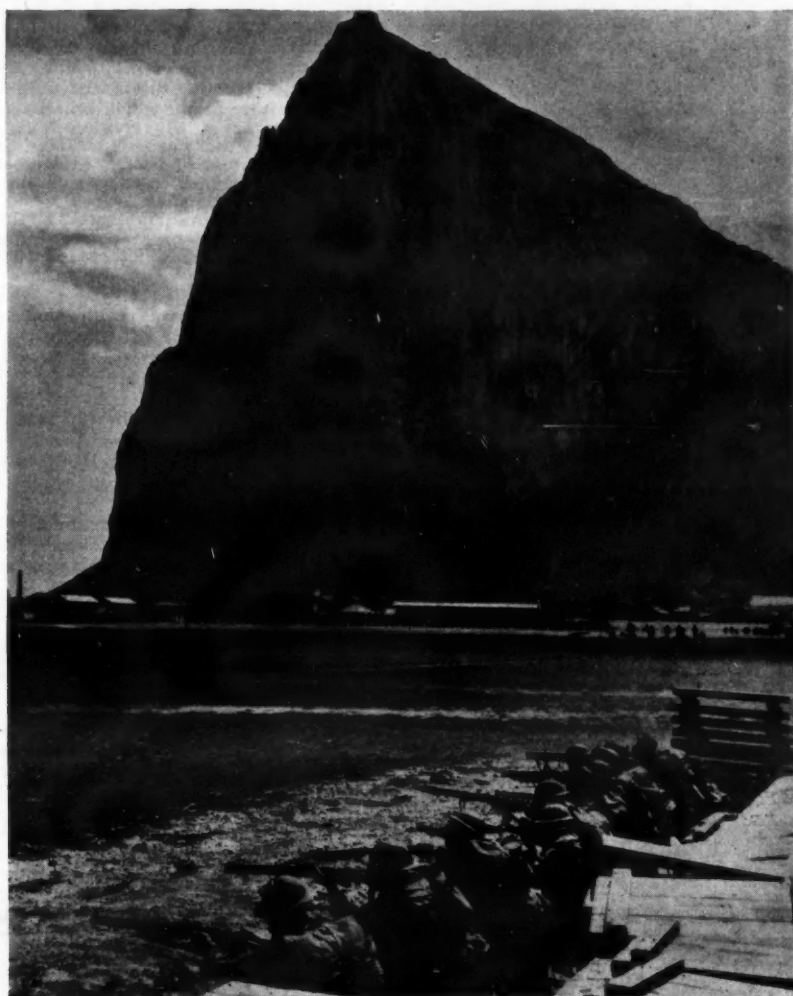
Labor Migrations

During the present century we have seen different types of migrations. There were the farm families who moved to cities in the hope of earning more money in industry than in agriculture. In times of depression, there were the back-to-the-farm movements. During the World War there was the mad scramble of workers to the big industrial centers where jobs were more plentiful. And in the 1930's we witnessed the sad spectacle of families from the Dust Bowl, the migrant farm families, uprooting themselves and moving westward where they hoped to eke out an existence.

But the migration of labor caused by the defense program is of a different nature. As the billions of dollars appropriated by Congress have been translated into orders, new industries have sprung up in various parts of the country. Industries already established have had to expand their activities and double or treble their number of workers. Boom towns have risen up overnight. For the first time in more than a decade, workers see the prospect of full-time jobs at high rates of pay. It is estimated that there are at least a million and a half migrants on the go today, seeking jobs in defense industries.

Scores of cities throughout the country are finding it increasingly difficult to absorb the influx of new workers. In many cases, the population has more than doubled as a result of the defense program. Only

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British Royal Marines guard the beach beside Gibraltar

Does Honesty Pay?

By Walter E. Myer

I was talking not long ago with a prominent attorney about some of the problems of his profession, and I asked him what he considered the most important qualification for success as a lawyer. Without hesitation he replied: "Integrity, unfailing honesty. The lawyer who commands the confidence of fellow lawyers, judges, and the public, is in a most enviable position."

"It is commonly believed," he added "that trickery and deceit are frequently practiced by lawyers, and it is unfortunately true that many members of the bar stoop to questionable practices, though the extent of dishonesty in the profession is exaggerated. When a lawyer is crooked, people soon find it out, just as they are likely to see the true character of anyone, whatever his occupation. What the people are less likely to understand is that a large proportion of all lawyers are not successful. Many of them scarcely make a living, and among these unsuccessful ones, many of the tricksters can be found. But among the truly eminent members of the bar, dishonesty is rare. The men at the top are there because they have won the confidence of their associates and their clients."

This observation applies to all occupations, to every individual. Few people are so clever that they can conceal their true characters. It takes a good actor to be able to seem something he is not. It may be done for a while, but one can't be on guard all the time. After a while, at an unsuspected moment, the mask will fall. A telltale word or act will give the secret away and he will be known for what he is. If he is not dependable he will not be trusted, and one who is not trusted will not succeed.

A self-respecting, public-spirited person will not, however, be too greatly concerned about whether honesty "pays." We know that even though, on some occasions, we might gain by acts of dishonesty, others will lose. We know, furthermore, that no one can prosper, no one can live decently except in a society where most people are honest and dependable. We know that the standards of honesty and dependability which prevail among us have been built up very slowly. We know that every act of dishonesty tends to tear down those standards. If you are dishonest, others, observing you, are more likely to be. You are then kicking down the ladder by which people rise to higher standards of conduct. The community is worse, rather than better, because of your example. What intelligent person could be satisfied with such a record?

I firmly believe that honesty pays in terms of material reward. But far more important, it pays in terms of self-respect, of human happiness and social welfare. The individual of integrity and honor has the unsurpassed satisfaction of knowing that he is in line with the mighty forces which are building better homes, better communities, and a better, stronger nation.

North Africa Is Alert For Early Campaign

Military Activity and Arrival of Reinforcements Suggest New Development

FRENCH COLONIES STUDIED

Uncertain Position of French Army in Northwest Africa Keeps Experts Guessing

In London, last week, Prime Minister Churchill warned the British people that although Hitler will probably have to keep fighting on the eastern front all winter, he may still have a surprise in store for them:

We are in complete ignorance of what he is going to do. We don't know how far he will attempt to penetrate the vast lands of Soviet Russia. . . . We do not know whether he will turn a portion of his vast army southwards toward the Valley of the Nile, or if he will make his way through Spain into northwest Africa. . . .

In his last sentence, the Prime Minister indicates that the British are alert to what is happening and what may happen along the Mediterranean coast of North Africa. A German drive through Turkey, Syria, and Palestine, perhaps coupled with a sea and air offensive from Crete, is a possibility. An Axis sweep through Spain followed by an assault on Gibraltar, a sealing of the western entrance to the sea, and a subsequent flood of German-Italian forces into northwest Africa, is another.

Axis in the Mediterranean

Both of these possible courses of action must be considered in the light of the fact that the lands in the central Mediterranean region are controlled at present by the Axis. Italy and Greece, the two big fingers of land reaching down through the center of that sea, are occupied by Axis troops, so are the big islands of Sardinia, Sicily, and Crete, which lie along the center of that narrow sea like three huge punctuation marks. And then finally, to complete the picture, the Axis forces command the center of the southern coast of the Mediterranean with bases in Italy's huge but sandy colony of Libya.

Libya, with an area of 680,000 square miles, is nearly six times the size of Italy. But its size is deceptive. Behind a narrow coastal ribbon of green, fertile soil, the land withers quickly away into the blazing wastes of the Libyan deserts. "A piece of map known to be poor, without minerals, without much water, without many inhabitants,—a slice of territory which the imagination depicts as limitless, useless, and yellow," as Elizabeth Monroe once described it. Even the Italians have known Libya for what it is. "We knew it was no Eden," one commentator remarked last year, referring to Italy's conquest of that region in 1911-1912.

But the Italians have been at great pains to turn the desert into a gar-

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ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
The conducting of elections is one of the functions of the student council

Student Councils

STUDENT government in one form or another is practiced in hundreds of high schools and the movement is growing rapidly. There is a general feeling that if students are ever to become efficient in democracy they should practice it in dealing with their own affairs in school.

There are many forms of student government. Quite often a student council is elected with representatives from each class. This student council is the general governing body, and it appoints committees to carry on various activities.

Frequently the council handles not only many problems within the school, but it also associates itself with the councils of other schools. In a number of states, the various schools which have student government have formed state organizations, and not only are there state organizations but there is a general body known as the National Association of Student Councils.

The National Association of Student Councils has compiled a list of activities which are handled by the student councils in many different schools. These activities have been reported to the national organization by the local councils. More than 300 different projects, each one of which is being carried out somewhere, are included in the list. Among these projects which are engaging the attention of student councils or other student organizations in high schools, the following may be mentioned. The 25 included in the list below are taken from the list of more than 300 different activities:

1. Carry on charity work or aid welfare organizations.
2. Raise money for scholarships or scholarship loan funds.
3. Tutor backward or failing students.
4. Collect information about colleges.
5. Publish student handbooks.
6. Help plan commencement exercises of the activity type.
7. Serve as welcoming committee for new students.
8. Run a column or section in the school newspaper.
9. Sponsor debating league.
10. Conduct campaigns for beautification of school grounds.
11. Teach and study parliamentary law.

12. Conduct book exchange.
13. Conduct drives for better school morale.
14. Organize hobby clubs in the community.
15. Conduct song-writing contests.
16. Teach better lunchroom and cafeteria manners.
17. Promote courtesy in street, automobile, theater, classroom.
18. Campaign to make the life of the school more democratic.
19. Promote proper behavior in assemblies and at public events.
20. Eliminate petty thieving, cribbing, dishonesty.
21. Arrange lecture courses and outside-talent programs.
22. Introduce students to new school activities and projects.
23. Study accident prevention and work for elimination of hazards.
24. Hold mock political conventions and model sessions of Congress.
25. Send cards to convalescent students and teachers.

Further information about the organization of student councils, the establishment and maintaining of student government in individual schools, and the projects or activities which may be carried on by local student government organizations may be obtained by writing the National Association of Student Councils, Miss Alice G. Langford, secretary-treasurer, B.M.C. Burfee High School, Fall River, Massachusetts.



From a poster by Ruth Dettmering of the High School of Commerce, San Francisco

Newspaper Columnists

WHETHER a writer's views are liberal or conservative usually depends upon the reader's definition and personal convictions. In recent years no columnist's opinions have been declared both liberal and conservative quite as consistently as Walter Lippmann's.

In the early 1930's Lippmann supported the New Deal, but gradually shifted to the opposition. At the present time, however, he approves in general of the administration's foreign and defense policies. Regardless of his stand at any given moment, Lippmann's forceful, analytical comments appeal to readers of all political and social convictions.

His style and approach to problems are illustrated by an excerpt from one of his recent columns, in which defense production was discussed:

We are now at the stage where, as the production of weapons increases, the civilian boom must be deflated. The signs that this phase is at hand are (1) the tax bill, (2) the rising cost of living, (3) the distress of the non-defense industries which cannot obtain necessary materials because of the priorities.

All of these are merely aspects of the same fundamental and obvious fact—namely that as an increasing part of the productive energy of the nation is devoted to defense, there must be a diminishing supply of goods for civilians.



THE dean of newspaper columnists still packs the punch of a young reporter. Mark Sullivan at 67, after more than 50 years as newsmen and author, critically looks over the current scene and gives his interpretations to the readers of his widely syndicated column.

Sullivan is conservative in his economic and political views. He has criticized sharply many New Deal policies and acts. One of the proposed pieces of legislation he now objects to is the price-control bill, which would place an upper limit on all prices except wages and the money paid farmers for their products.

In his usual lawyerlike manner of building up a case for or against a measure in simple terms, Sullivan says:

If you "up" the price of farm crops, which means the price of food, you must presently up the price of labor, which is wages. And if you up the price of wages, you must presently up the price of that which wages enter into, namely, goods of all kinds.

The terminus is inflation. Inflation means dollars turned into 25-cent pieces—in the sense that it would take a dollar to buy what a 25-cent piece will buy now.

AFFABLE, temperate, well-balanced—these words perhaps best describe Raymond Clapper, syndicated writer for the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain. In Washington there are few officials who fail to read his column daily and Washington correspondents, in an informal poll, have voted him the "most informative" of columnists. Recently, Mr. Clapper wrote:

This is the time when public officials and members of Congress deserve a good deal of forbearance on the part of their constituents. That is not a suggestion for a moratorium on criticism or public discussion, which democratic government must always have. It is a suggestion that such criticism be on the basis of common sense and reasonable judgment.

Sure, the people are always right in the long run. But sometimes it must be a very long run before the right public judgment develops. Public opinion does make mistakes.

There is the danger of not giving officials and Congress enough rope in the day-to-day decisions. It is a real danger in such a period as this. The war has created many complicated problems. How shall we deal with rising prices? Often it is difficult at best to know what ought to be done. If an official or senator or representative here on the ground and familiar with the details has difficulty in knowing what the best course is, how much more difficult is it for people out in the country, with less information, to form a sound judgment?

THERE are not many newspapermen who can boast so varied a career as that of Hugh Johnson. Now in his sixtieth year, the "general" has at one time or another been a cavalry officer, a business executive, a writer of boys' books, a political campaigner, a government administrator. Since 1935, he has been writing a column, sometimes full of sizzling invective, at other times reasonably calm. Recently he has been striking out against proposals to reduce the size of the American Army:

The great, rich, and powerful empires of Mexico and Peru were taken by Cortez and Pizarro with a few platoons of Spaniards and the disparity between the equipment they used and the arrows, obsidian axes, and cotton armor of the Incas and Aztecs was scarcely greater than that between Hitler's panzer troops and our ancient equipment. At the beginning of our land armament effort, we were too far behind Nazi military developments to see them with a telescope. We are still nearly as far behind, although progress is accelerating.

Getting into a "position of readiness," for whatever may happen is no slight task. It takes interminable training and education with modern arms and we do not yet have the arms.

Prudent aid in our own best interests is one thing. Stripping ourselves of a sufficient modern defense against anything that may happen is quite another thing. Let's do the best we can on all fronts but let's not forget the home front.

DAVID LAWRENCE, author, columnist, and publisher, has been in the newspaper game since he reported the Revolution in Mexico in 1910, just after graduating from Princeton. Since 1933 he has published an unusual magazine—*The United States News*—devoted mainly to the activities of the United States government. Both there and in his newspaper columns he has been a consistent critic of the Roosevelt administration's domestic policies.

In a recent column in the *Washington Star*, Lawrence discusses the letters which come to him:

The most disturbing aspect of one's mail these days, however, is the disregard of the lessons that Christ taught. The atmosphere is full of hate and bitterness. The blame is not all on one side or in one party or group or profession. The Nazi movement is a revolution against Christianity, and inside America neglect of the teachings of Christ is all too apparent, even sometimes among those with advantages of position in public or private life.

If ever there were need for the application of Christian philosophy to a national mood, it would seem to be here today. It is a task not alone for the church, but for the individual. Leadership of government, leadership of capital, leadership of labor—all these are important responsibilities—but leadership of the soul right now might unify America.



Seeing South America . . . VI

AN interesting feature of our visit to Ecuador was a trip to Ambato, a town of about 20,000 which is 90 miles south of Quito. We made this trip on Monday because that is the Indian market day. For generations it has been the custom of the farmers in the Andean valley, in which Ambato is located, to go into the town each Monday to sell their produce or to exchange it. It is said that 25,000 Indians make their way into the town each Monday.



Walter E. Myer

The road to Ambato is one of the best in Ecuador, though if it were in the United States it would be avoided by all motorists. It is of cobblestone construction and each stone was laid separately by hand. Naturally, it is a little bumpy, but at any rate it is an all-weather road, and if one reconciles himself to a little discomfort, he finds it fairly satisfactory.

The scenery is beautiful. Snow-capped peaks stand out on either side of the valley. Most famous of these are Chimborazo and Cotopaxi which are higher than any peaks in North America. The road runs over hilly country, and at the top of each eminence one is likely to see spread before him a valley of surprising beauty.

Disappointing Scene

It is disappointing, however, to drive down into the valley through a rich agricultural region which should support a prosperous farm population. For one does not find prosperity in these places, but rather abject poverty.

The land is divided for the most part into large estates, the owners living in the towns—probably in Quito or Guayaquil. The peons who till the soil live in villages, the houses being strung along the highway. They go out from the villages to farm strips of land.

The little huts in which the peons live are similar to the slum dwellings in Quito. They are dirty little places of one or two rooms, often windowless and with dirt floors. They are as much like pigpens as human habitations. When we approached one of these huts to talk (through our interpreter) with the family, we were told to put up the windows of the car as we approached so that the flies could not swarm in.

At one house which we visited, a man and his wife and a little girl sat weaving cloth. There had been 11 children in this family. Four

of them were still living. Infant mortality is appallingly high, as it naturally would be under such unsanitary conditions. When a baby dies, the family often regards it as a blessing, as perhaps it is under such tragic circumstances.

Quito and Guayaquil may change. In fact, they are changing; taking on many of the ways which we call western progress, but the villages and little towns remain as they have been—as they have been for hundreds of years. There is practically no chance for the children born in these abominable rural slums to rise above the way of life which their fathers and grandfathers have followed.

As we approached Ambato, we passed Indians in countless numbers trudging along the road on their way to market. Some of them had started from their little farms long before sunrise. They carried fruits and vegetables and woven goods and other articles in their arms or on their backs. Some of them, many of them, in fact, had donkeys, and these little animals were loaded with produce. Groups here and there were driving sheep or pigs. We saw one Indian woman carrying a pig.

As the forenoon wore on and we came near to Ambato, these groups of Indian families, attired in their best and brightest shawls or dresses, marched in an unending procession. It was an impressive sight indeed as we reached the outskirts of the town and saw this bright procession wending its way along the road between tall rows of eucalyptus trees.

Ambato itself was alive with the visitors. The streets were jammed with Indians, donkeys, sheep, children, and dogs. The center for which all were making their way was the huge market grounds and here by noon there were hundreds of little booths and counters where every conceivable kind of vegetable or fruit was on sale. There were also booths where bread and cakes were sold. There were meat markets and markets for clothing of every variety. It seemed rather strange in the midst of these primitive conditions to find dozens of Indians sitting out in the open air making garments with Singer sewing machines.

From Ambato, we drove on eastward through the mountain passes into the quaint little village of Banos; thence onward to the eastern slopes of the mountains. Here we came

to a tributary of the Amazon River. We were in the section of Ecuador which is claimed by Peru—the region over which the two countries were then threatening to go to war and over which there has since been border fighting.

I was surprised to find how large this disputed area is. Peru is claiming half of the territory which the Ecuadorians call their own. It seems a quite worthless region—mountainous, uninhabited, unexplored. In Ecuador, though, they feel very deeply about the issue. They think that there is oil in this section. Not only that, but they believe that Peru is really trying to get a foothold and that her real purpose is to extend Peruvian rule over all of Ecuador. What is now Ecuador once was a part of Peru and the people of Ecuador think that Peru wants to win the territory back.

This dispute with Peru was a chief topic of conversation in Quito while we were there. Everyone seemed quite excited about it. The young men were being trained to fight. It was a crude sort of training. The boys, most of them Indians, were being given a day a week of military drill.

Almost No Equipment

A while before we were there, a training group had come into possession of a machine gun and had accidentally gotten it started and couldn't stop it, and when they were finished, several of the boys were dead or wounded. One man with whom we talked was quite worried because his son was among the trainees, and he was afraid that the boy might be accidentally killed in practice.

People of Quito feel quite sure that they can defend the mountain passes against Peru, but they say that Peru has a number of airplanes and they are afraid that Quito and other cities may be bombed.

I found among the people of Ecuador an almost pathetic sense of reliance upon the United States to help them out of their troubles with Peru. They seemed to feel that this was their only real hope of avoiding invasion. They thought that the United States would not permit a serious war to break out in South America. They felt confident that we would be on their side—especially in the light of the fact that they are willing to give the United States a naval and air base in the Galapagos Islands, which lie out in the Pacific, west of the coast of Ecuador, and which the United States government needs as a base which can be used for the protection of the Panama Canal.

—WALTER E. MYER



Natives going to market in Ecuador

♦ SMILES ♦

"Is your husband a bookworm?"
"No. Just an ordinary one."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

Passenger (to bus conductor reading paper)—"What time does this bus start?"

Conductor (pointing to paper)—"At the end of this article."

—MONTREAL STAR



"Better put your hat on, dear—you're both about the same size and weight!"

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

Diner (irately after half-hour wait)—"Are you the girl who took my order?"

Waitress—"Yes sir."

Diner—"Well, I declare, you don't look a day older."

—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

"What's the matter—afraid of having your umbrella stolen?"

"No. Recognized."

—SELECTED

Lecturer—"I calculate that the end of the world will come in 217,000,000 years."

Member of the audience (in great agitation)—"How many years did you say?"

Lecturer—"217,000,000."

Inquirer—"I had such a fright. I thought you said 117,000,000."

—SELECTED

Magistrate—"What's your name and occupation and what are you charged with?"

Prisoner—"My name is Sparks, I'm an electrician and I'm charged with battery."

Magistrate—"Put him in a dry cell."

—RAILROAD TRAINMEN

"Lady," said the policeman who had motioned her to stop, "how long do you expect to be out?"

"What do you mean by that question?" she demanded indignantly.

"Well," he replied sarcastically, "there are a couple of thousand other motorists who would like to use this street after you get through with it."

—LABOR



Guayaquil, Ecuador, from the water

GRACE LINE

The Week at Home

Pink Star Loss

The loss at sea several days ago of the *I. C. White* has raised to eight the total number of American-owned or operated ships sunk since the outbreak of the war. As this toll rose, so also did support for modification of the Neutrality Act. While government officials conferred and planned for legislative action, numerous prominent individuals and organizations went on record as favoring repeal or modification of the law. Likewise, a recent Gallup poll showed approximately half the citizens of the United States to be in favor of the arming of merchant vessels.

Why legislation to permit arming of merchant vessels is considered to be extremely important was vividly explained by the President at a press conference last week. He gave a graphic account of the vital materials which were lost on the *Pink Star*, a vessel operated by the U. S. Maritime Commission, and flying the flag of Panama, which was sunk September 19 about 255 miles southwest of Iceland. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, the President listed the following commodities as having been sent to the bottom of the sea:

(1) Enough cheddar cheese to feed three and a half million laborers for one week on the current British ration, representing the milk output of 2,000 cows for one year. (2) Powdered



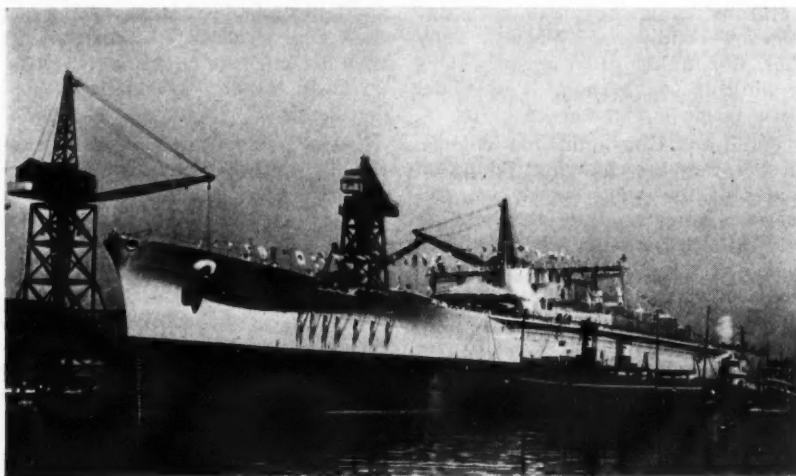
MRS. ROOSEVELT goes to work as an assistant director of Civilian Defense. She is shown conferring with New York's Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, director.

milk equivalent to 320,000 quarts of fresh milk and evaporated milk equal to 1,250,000 quarts of liquid or the annual production of a herd of 300 cows. (3) Sufficient orange juice concentrate to supply the Vitamin C requirement of 91,000 persons for 12 days. (4) Pork products representing 8,000 hogs. (5) Lard representing the quantity from 87,000 hogs.

(6) Corn products representing the output of 600 acres. (7) Enough tractors to have plowed 715 acres a day. (8) Sufficient mechanical potato diggers to have dug 250 acres of potatoes a day. (9) Enough small links for machine-gun belts to fill the needs of 10 squadrons of fighter planes. (10) Small machine tools for production of aircraft engines, representing the labor of 300 workmen for four months.

"No. 1 Volunteer"

For the first time in the history of the United States, the wife of an American President has accepted a government job. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is already one of America's busiest women, is now working under Fiorello H. La Guardia as assistant director of the Office of Civilian Defense. She made headlines by walking the mile from the White House to the OCD headquarters on her first morning at the new job; later in the day when she ap-



GREATEST WARSHIP of them all is the giant battleship U.S.S. Massachusetts, recently launched and now being outfitted. Shipyard crews at Fore River, Massachusetts, are working in shifts 24 hours a day to rush the vessel to completion.

peared with La Guardia for newspaper photographers her new boss called her "America's No. 1 Volunteer."

When asked if she would be a "dollar-a-year" employee, Mrs. Roosevelt replied that she had no idea what her salary would be. Her work will be largely that of supervising the training and placement of volunteers in defense work. She plans to be on the job part of each morning, which will keep her quite busy, together with her other activities. The President's wife already writes a daily newspaper column, delivers a weekly radio broadcast, and is in constant demand as a speaker.

Social Security Revision

Significant changes will soon be made in the social security program if Congress accepts the proposals made by the President last week. In keeping with pledges made by the Democratic party platform in the last election, the administration has recommended the following improvements in the present law:

1. Old-age and survivors' insurance, now covering about 40,000,000 workers, mainly industrial, in 2,000,000 establishments, would be extended to some 27,000,000 additional workers. These would include 7,000,000 farm operators, 4,500,000 farm laborers, 2,500,000 domestic servants, 1,000,000 workers in non-profit institutions, 3,000,000 casual workers, 4,000,000 employees of state and local governments, and 5,000,000 self-employed persons.

2. A method would be worked out by which more federal aid would be extended to the less wealthy states for old-age assistance. Under present law the federal government will pay as much as \$20 per person per month, if the state will put up an equal amount. This money is for old-age pensions to persons not eligible for federal social security payments. The national average for such pensions is now \$20.63, but many poorer states, especially in the South, pay as little as \$4 and \$6 a month.

3. An increase would be made in the rates, probably for both old-age insurance and for unemployment compensation. At present the old-age insurance is paid for by a one per cent payroll tax on employers and a contribution from the employee of one per cent of his wage or salary. These rates are scheduled to rise to

two per cent in 1943 and three per cent in 1949, but it is now urged that they be raised at an earlier date.

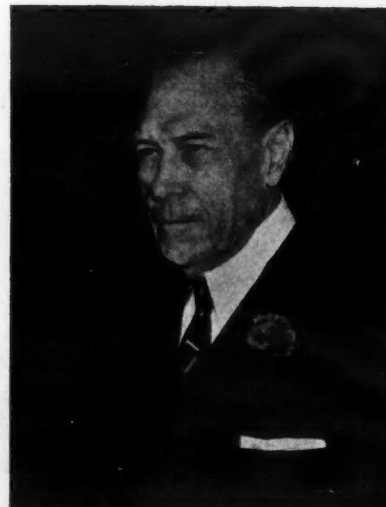
This increase would accomplish a double function: it would siphon off purchasing power, and thus act as a brake on inflation, and it would provide large funds which could be used temporarily for defense purposes.

Envoy to the Pope

After having been gone exactly one month, Myron C. Taylor arrived in New York by transatlantic clipper last week, thus ending a highly secret diplomatic mission to Europe. Originally this significant mission was to the Papacy, for Taylor has been since Christmas of 1939 the personal representative of the President to the Vatican, with rank of ambassador without portfolio. After having two important audiences with Pope Pius XII, however, Mr. Taylor flew to London and conferred with Churchill, Eden, Winant, and other prominent statesmen.

Great mystery has surrounded Mr. Taylor's mission. It is believed that, among other things, he attempted to learn the viewpoint of the Pope concerning the eight-point declaration drawn up by Churchill and Roosevelt recently, and about aid to Communist Russia, against which the Papacy has long been bitterly opposed because of its attacks on religion.

Before his appointment to the Vatican, Myron C. Taylor was well known as a business executive. He has been prominent in banking,



MYRON C. TAYLOR has returned from what is believed to have been an important mission to the Vatican.

finance, insurance, and industry. When he retired from active business life in 1939 he was chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, in which capacity he had negotiated the famous labor agreement with John L. Lewis of the CIO in 1936.

Supreme Court Opens

On the first Monday of October, nine black-robed justices took their places in the majestic new Supreme Court Building for the first time since their summer recess, and a new eight-month term of the United States Supreme Court had begun. It was one of the youngest groups of justices to hold session since the Court was organized in 1790. In 1937, when President Roosevelt called for "new blood," the average age of the justices was just under 72. Today, with seven new members, all appointed by Mr. Roosevelt, the average has plummeted down to slightly under 56. The members range in age from Justice Douglas, who is the baby of the Court at 42, to Chief Justice Stone, who is 69.

More than 650 cases are pending for the new Court to settle, a larger number than for many years. Among them are such varied questions as the constitutionality of the Federal Anti-Racketeering Act; interpretation of the Wagner Labor Act, the Wage-Hour Law, and the Sherman Anti-Trust Law; whether a state may require payment of a poll tax as a prerequisite to voting for a member of Congress, and whether the Hatch Act regulating political activity applies to primaries as well as to general elections.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1933, OF THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, PUBLISHED WEEKLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (EXCEPT TWO ISSUES IN DECEMBER AND THREE ISSUES FROM THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST TO THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER), AT WASHINGTON, D. C., FOR OCTOBER 6, 1941.

District of Columbia, ss:
Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District aforesaid, personally appeared Walter E. Myer, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and business manager are: Publisher, Civic Education Service, Washington, D. C.; Editor, Walter E. Myer, Washington, D. C.; Business Manager, Ruth G. Myer, Washington, D. C.

2. That the owners are Walter E. Myer, Washington, D. C.; and Ruth G. Myer, Washington, D. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none.

WALTER E. MYER, Editor
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of October 1941.

Julian E. Caraballo
Notary Public, District of Columbia.
My Commission expires February 15, 1942.

The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

Published weekly throughout the year (except two issues in December and three issues from the middle of August to the first week in September) by the CIVIC EDUCATION SERVICE, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

Subscription price, single copy, \$2 a calendar year. In clubs of five or more for class use, \$1 a school year or 50 cents a semester. For a term shorter than a semester the price is 3 cents a week.

Entered as second-class matter Sept. 15, 1931, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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The Week Abroad

Eastern Front

German forces were believed last week to have begun a new offensive aimed directly at the Soviet capital. The news was hinted at by Chancellor Hitler in his first speech to the world in five months. Both the Berlin and Moscow high commands, however, have failed to indicate from what direction the thrust is coming or what progress it is making.

In the rear of the battle lines, unrest in the German-occupied countries has reached a point where it constitutes what might be called another front. In Yugoslavia, particularly, armed resistance by guerrilla bands resembles pitched battles. Scores of thousands of Serbs, as admitted by Berlin, have taken to rugged mountain fastnesses, whence they strike at German lines of communication, at German garrisons, at important war industries. The guerrillas, aided by planes sent from Russia, have also seized German hostages and are threatening reprisals unless the execution of Yugoslav citizens by the Nazis is completely halted.

Trouble in B. A.

A serious split within the Argentine government has developed over the question of Nazi activities in that republic. Several weeks ago, a plot against the government was discovered and quickly crushed. The attempted revolt showed signs of being Nazi-inspired. In fact, it was fairly clear that Hitler's ambassador in Buenos Aires was involved. Nevertheless, for some mysterious reason, the acting president of Argentina, Ramon S. Castillo, has sought to hush up the whole affair.

His attitude has created a storm in the chamber of deputies and in the press of Buenos Aires. Some of the deputies openly hint that high government officials close to the cabinet may have had a part in the conspiracy, and that, for this reason, President Castillo is keeping the facts from the public. Other deputies suspect that Castillo himself is merely anxious not to offend Germany. They point to the fact that he has repeatedly tried to hinder the investigation into Nazi activities which has been conducted by a com-

mittee of the Argentine chamber of deputies during the last three months.

Eastern Sub-Capital

Eighteen years ago Britain began in earnest to build a great naval and air base to protect her eastern empire. The site chosen was Singapore, a hot marshy island about 15 miles long and as many wide at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, on the straits between the China Sea and Indian Ocean.

At a cost of some \$300,000,000, swamps were filled in, hills were leveled, the course of a river was changed, and Singapore's harbor was enlarged to the point where it could contain the entire British fleet. Protected by mine fields, huge batteries of enormous guns, and hundreds of R.A.F. fighter and bomber planes, Singapore stands today as Britain's bastion in the East.

But it is becoming more than a mere base. About two months ago

Pending this development, Singapore was a tense city, last week. Reports that Japan had presented more stiff demands on French Indo-China, and insisted on the right to turn Saigon into a big military base, caused some fears that a Japanese invasion of the Malay States from Indo-China may be planned by Tokyo. Such an attack, of course, would be aimed principally at Singapore.

Prisoners of War

The move to exchange 3,000 wounded German and British prisoners, last week, has called attention to the fact that there is at least one international agreement which has not yet been violated by either side—the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929. This convention laid down in great detail the regulations to be observed in military prison camps.

Germany, as a result of its suc-



PRISONERS OF WAR, and enemy aliens, are herded together in internment or concentration camps. The various nations are reported to be living up to the international agreement made some years ago providing for standards of treatment.

the British government appointed Alfred Duff Cooper as coordinator of Far Eastern affairs and sent him to Singapore. Australian and New Zealand officials are also arriving in the same place.

Some commentators believe that it is the intention of the British to turn Singapore into an imperial sub-capital from which Far Eastern matters, embracing the Malay States, Burma, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand, will be administered.

cessive land victories, holds the most prisoners. They are placed in vast camps, many of which were formerly used by either the Reich army or labor service. They contain showers, lounge rooms, and kitchens in addition to sleeping quarters. Prisoners are generally free to pass the time as they please. They may receive censored mail, read from moderately well-stocked libraries, or organize sports, singing, or drama clubs. With the entire German population on rations, it might be imagined that the prisoners would get little food. But the fact is, they get the same diet as that served the German soldiers, which is to say, they are given better food than German civilians.

The International Red Cross, which has examined conditions in Axis and Allied camps, has so far reported no infractions of the regulations regarding war prisoners. Russia did not sign the 1929 convention and is therefore not protected by it, but the fact that the Soviets hold many German prisoners of war ensures that Russian prisoners in Germany will not be mistreated for the time being.

Time in the Far East

Japanese policy in the Far East in recent months has been shaped primarily by a desire to play for time and await the outcome of the Rus-



GENERAL MAXIME WEYGAND, with his armies in French North Africa, holds the key to the situation in the Mediterranean area.

sian war. It is for this reason that Prince Fumimaro Konoye sent a letter to President Roosevelt asking whether some "adjustment" could not be made in American-Japanese relations.

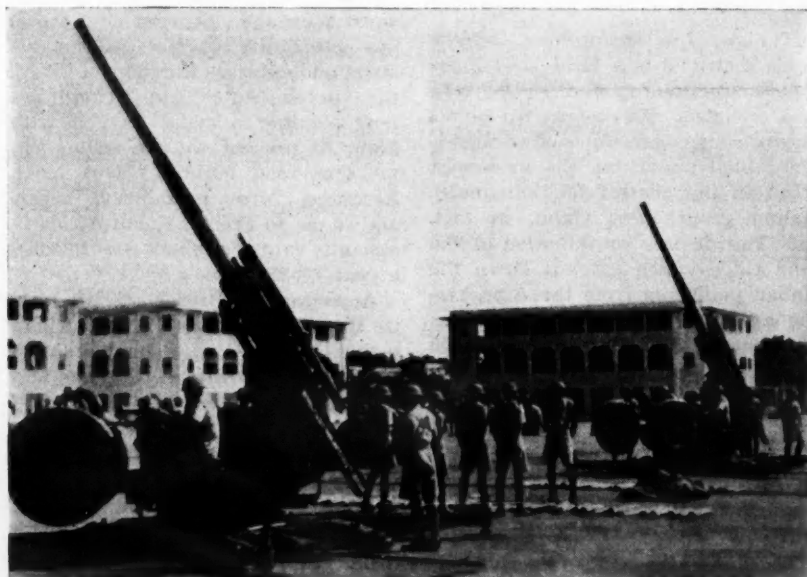
But as the Russo-German war has dragged on, without a clear decision in favor of Hitler, the Japanese have begun to wonder whether this practice of "playing for time" is working to Japan's advantage. Japanese resources continue to be used up in China and replenishments are hard to find. Yet, all this time, military supplies continue to reach Japan's potential foes in the Far Pacific, the British at Singapore, the Dutch in their colonial empire, the Chinese by way of the Burma Road. Japanese suspicions have been further aroused by the fact that the United States, instead of pressing the negotiations with the Tokyo government, seems content to let them ride along for the present.

Last Card

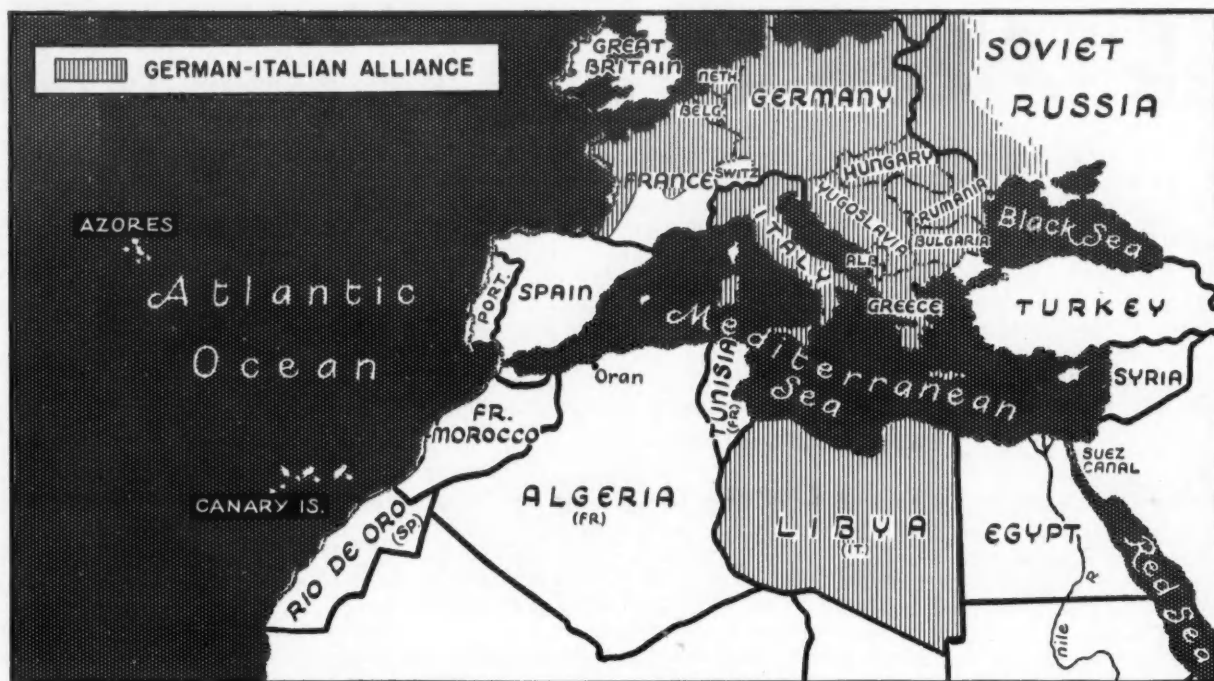
General Maxime Weygand, commander of the French colonial forces in North Africa, is commonly supposed to be France's last card in dealing with Hitler. By taking his large forces into the war against the Axis, Weygand could cause Hitler a great deal of trouble. A shrewd and ruthless man, Weygand would probably do this without blinking an eye, if he thought it was to his best interest. But he is also aloof and tight-lipped. No one knows what he is going to do. The general has always been considered a somewhat mysterious figure.

A Belgian, by birth, Weygand is believed to have very high family connections. For some reason never divulged, he grew up in France, passing through the military schools to become chief of staff of the French army under Foch during the World War. The French government soon became used to handing him unpleasant tasks—the shooting of Russian communists in France, the stopping of the Soviet advance on Warsaw, in 1920, and the suppression of the Riffs in North Africa. An unswerving officer, Weygand never failed.

In the summer of 1940, as the French lines broke before the German blitzkrieg, Weygand was recalled from the Near East and given command of all Allied armies in France. But by then it was too late, and when the collapse finally came, he retired to Africa, gathered an army, and settled down to watch and wait.



SINGAPORE, British naval stronghold in the Far East, is the center of Britain's imperial interests in that part of the world.



The Mediterranean area and North Africa

North Africa Looms as War Theater

(Concluded from page 1)

den. It has been a matter of national pride with them. The Senusi tribes of the desert had to be fought to a costly draw, vast irrigation systems had to be built. White government buildings encircled by palms arose in Tripoli, and Italian colonists planted olive groves, lemon, almond, and orange farms, watered them with great patience, and surrounded their small houses with cool gardens, wherever possible. With all the effort that has gone into Libya, however, only 17,000 out of 685,000 square miles have been made productive.

Role of Libya

But Libya has served very well as a foothold for Axis forces on the southern shores of the Mediterranean. About a year ago, it will be remembered, Italy seemed well on the way to the conquest of Egypt, from Libya. Disaster subsequently overtook the Italians. In the great British drive of last winter, two entire Italian armies were destroyed, and Libya was nearly lost. Only the timely arrival of German troops saved the colony, and after that the British were pushed back to a line roughly approximating the original. During the past summer the blazing, choking heat of the desert sun has put a stop to most of the fighting.

There seems no doubt, however, that both sides are preparing for action. All summer long, big convoys have been crossing the Mediterranean. Italy has been moving troops and supplies to Libya across the narrow part of the sea. The British navy has been herding long lines of merchant ships, heavily laden with tanks, aircraft engines and parts, guns and munitions, trucks, machinery and other equipment from the United States, toward Egypt. The Mediterranean has become a no man's land, with small battles and ship sinkings frequent.

The size of Axis forces in Libya is not known. Last spring the Germans were known to have three mechanized divisions in the region, but whether their strength has increased or decreased since is a mystery. Judging from British activities, however, military experts are inclined to believe that the German-Italian mili-

tary machine in Libya is one of considerable strength.

Now that autumn is cooling the battleground, the possibility of a British or an Axis offensive is growing. From an Italian point of view, the key to the whole situation is Egypt. Two waterways—one built by nature, the other built by man—make it the most important country in North Africa. The great Nile, flowing slowly northward and then splitting into a dozen smaller streams before it meets the sea, has produced an extraordinarily fertile strip of land, north and south. The fertility of the Nile Valley enables Egypt to support 16,000,000 people and to export cotton, fruits, and farm crops valued at \$150,000,000 a year.

The man-made Suez Canal, on the other hand, places Egypt in a position of great strategic importance. The British, to hold the Canal, must hold Egypt. To protect Egypt, they must hold the nearby seas, and Palestine and other neighboring lands.

If Italy could gain control of Egypt she could dominate the Suez Canal, either driving the British fleet out of the eastern Mediterranean, or bottling it up, and she would then command also the land routes between North Africa and Asia. But the British, as aware of this fact as the Italians, certainly have made Egypt the headquarters of their Middle East command, under General Claude J. Auchinleck.

Last week this command was split into two forces—an army of the west, centered in Egypt, and an army of the north, centered in Syria—the former to hold back any drives from Libya, and the latter to keep watch on German movements in Turkey or, possibly, in the eastern region, south of the Caucasus Mountains.

In all, the British are believed to have as many as 750,000 troops under the Middle East command. Some observers believe the British may even be strong enough to open an offensive into Libya of their own with the objective of driving the Axis forces out before Hitler can withdraw enough of his deadly *panzer* divisions from Russia.

But this leaves one big uncertain factor in the North African situation. This is northwest Africa, which includes three French possessions—

Tunisia, Algeria, and French Morocco, and the less important territories of Spain—Spanish Morocco and Tangier. The sea and the Gibraltar Straits separate this region from Europe. Five great ranges of the Atlas Mountains help to wall it off from the desert and the rest of Africa. The peaks of the Atlas ranges sometimes reach 14,000 feet, and most of the interior is quite rugged.

While the mountains have made economic development difficult, they have shut out the scorching Sahara winds, making it possible to raise cattle and grow crops in the deep sheltered valleys between the ranges, and along a fertile strip of coastal lowland which varies in width between 50 and 100 miles. So complete was the isolation of northwest Africa in former days that the Arabs called it "the island of the west."

French Possessions

About 16,000,000 people inhabit northwest Africa. All but a million of them are Moslems, descendants of the Arabs who conquered north Africa and Spain in the seventh century. The fact that there are a million French people in northwest Africa is interesting in that it reveals that France has sent more of her people across the Mediterranean as colonists than any other European country.

Tunisia, the easternmost of the three districts, is a mild and somewhat attractive region of rolling hills and orchards. Its eastern tip points across a few score miles of water toward Sicily, marking the narrowest strait in the central Mediterranean. Italian geographers claim, in fact, that Tunisia is a continuation of the land ridge which extends down the Italian peninsula from the Alps, rising again in the form of the Atlas Mountains. There are about 100,000 Italians in Tunisia, nearly as many as there are French, and it has long been an ambition of Italian imperialists to gain control of this region—their claims being advanced on both racial and geographic grounds.

Algeria, which is politically a part of France itself, is a more important region. Its vineyards are among the world's largest. Its iron mines yield twice as much ore as was produced

in prewar Germany. Its phosphate resources are said to be 40 times greater than those of all Europe. Other products include grains, fruits, and livestock.

Morocco, to the west, is a wild and tumbled land, still ruled in theory by the aging Sultan Sidi Mohammed, who accepts French "advice" and certain gratuities in keeping his Moslem followers in line. It is in Morocco, today, that General Weygand has established the headquarters of an independent army, from 140,000 to 200,000 strong, and it is this army which makes French Northwest Africa the important uncertain factor along the southern Mediterranean coast.

Weygand in Africa

Weygand's army is the final card France can play if German pressure on Vichy should become too strong. Weygand himself has declared that he owes allegiance only to Marshal Pétain, and he has dealt very shortly with all suggestions that he might join the British. Recently, General Weygand was even compelled to take orders from the anti-British Admiral Jean Darlan, second-in-command to Pétain. But a semblance of independence he does keep. His army is ready, and the belief is general that Weygand would order his army and northwest Africa back into the war if Hitler should goad the French too far. A joint French-British attack on Libya from two sides at once might be disastrous to Italy, and this is a fact which is not overlooked anywhere.

But while northwest Africa has been a source of wealth to France, it has its limitations. It cannot fight a war on its own. There are no factories where cartridges can be made, there are no good repair depots for aircraft, trucks, and tanks. Weygand could only fight a protracted battle with outside aid, and he would need a great deal of it. This fact has considerably reduced his threat to Hitler's free hand in France, and his usefulness to Vichy.

Almost from the beginning, Great Britain and the United States maintained a policy of chilly distrust toward Weygand. The British at first not only refused to sell him materials he needed, but refused point-blank to permit any American goods to go through to him. In the meantime Germany began to gain strength in that region by pouring hundreds of young "tourists" and members of what seemed to be a very numerous armistice commission into the area.

More recently, Washington and London modified their policies toward Weygand. So long as there is any possibility of his shifting his stand and entering the fight in Libya, the United States and Britain are now seeking to avoid friction with him. At present we are selling oil, tar (for road building) wire, coal, kerosene, farm machinery, sugar, and so on, to French North Africa in amounts valued at about \$150,000,000 a year.

American and British officials realize that there is a risk involved here—that Weygand may be playing a double game with the Germans and British, and that he may be plotting all the time to strengthen Hitler's hand, but they doubt it. They believe it would be a mistake to let him down, for then he would have no choice but to turn to Hitler. Nevertheless, the entire situation in French Northwest Africa is being closely watched as a critical period in the Mediterranean struggle approaches.

Workers and the Defense Program

(Concluded from page 1)

two years ago, towns and cities were living a normal existence. Now they find their population increased by 5,000, 10,000, 50,000 or even more. Their mode of living has been greatly upset.

To understand what this influx has done one need only listen to the appeals for help to meet the housing shortage. Trailers are being used to house defense workers. Rooms are rented out on a two- or three-shift basis. Families have had to double up. In many cases, no living accommodations at all can be found and the workers take up residence in neighboring towns, traveling as far as 50 miles to and from their work every day.

Such a situation places a strain upon the transportation systems which were unprepared to meet the emergency. The schools are not equipped to handle the enlarged enrollment. The water and sewerage systems; all the public utilities are not adequate to meet the needs of the larger population.

Many Problems Raised

The situation would be difficult enough if all the migrants were able to find jobs in the towns to which they have moved. But they are not. Workers hear of openings in a certain city. They pack up and move, only to find that they do not have the skills required to fill the jobs. In the current issue of *Harpers*, Blair Bolles cites the example of Hartford, Connecticut:

For every newcomer who finds a job, at least three migrants get no work, but they hang about the town. A sampling of 311 migrants' abilities in Hartford made in the spring disclosed that only five per cent of them were skilled factory men. Twenty-two per cent were listed as potentially semi-skilled, 18 per cent previously had done service work of some sort, 10 per cent were clerks, 18 per cent had done semi-skilled work in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries, seven per cent had been salesmen, seven per cent were skilled in non-manufacturing lines, three per cent were agricultural workers, and the remaining 10 per cent were wholly unskilled. That is a good cross section of today's defense migrants.

A host of social problems have been raised by this migration of labor. Many of the towns where defense industries are located are small. The inhabitants, the permanent residents, resent the migrants and regard them as "intruders." Strains and stresses of all kinds have been created. Vice and crime have been on the increase in these localities.

Here, then, we have one side of the dislocations caused by the defense program—the great migration of workers to centers where defense industries are booming. But there is another side, another dislocation of equally serious proportions—the unemployment in other industries.

Priorities Unemployment

When we hear that automobile production is being reduced by 50 per cent, that refrigerators, washing machines, aluminum products, and dozens of other things are not going to be produced in such quantities as before, we are inclined to think only of the inconvenience caused to the consumers who will be unable to buy these goods.

To the consumer, the reduction of civilian production in many lines is merely an inconvenience; to thou-

sands of workers it is stark tragedy, for they are being thrown out of work. This is called priorities unemployment because it is caused by the priorities system which requires that raw materials be supplied to the defense industries first. A recent issue of *The New Republic* speaks of this army of unemployed:



DEFENSE INDUSTRIES, springing quickly to life, have caused workers to move in mass to towns ill equipped to provide for them.

A new threat has arisen in America. While the government is straining to maintain one army in existence, another army three times its size is gaining new recruits every day. It is the army of the unemployed, and for every man it is sending to the front line of the factories, it is receiving a new man from the front line—the defense unemployed. There are the unemployed from the restricted import industries; the 175,000 of the silk industry; the 15,000 of the cork industry; the 42,000 rubber workers who will have lost their jobs by the end of this year. There are the OPM unemployed, thrown out of the nondefense industries because OPM's failure to expand the production of raw materials has

Henderson's estimate was 2,500,000 by December. Yet this is only the beginning; in one raw material alone, copper, we face a shortage in 1942 greater than our 1938 production. There may be no copper for civilian supply, yet copper is vital in automobile production, in the electrical industry, and most of all in housing. Within a year the building industry with its 1,600,000 organized workers may be the hardest

hit of all the nondefense industries.

Of course, many of those who are thrown out of work as a result of the priorities system will be absorbed in other jobs. The automobile industry, for example, will devote a large part of its energies to the manufacture of tanks and trucks and other war materials. Other factories may be converted into war-producing plants and may absorb many of the workers who have lost their jobs. A large part of the priorities unemployment, therefore, may be temporary in nature. But there is bound to be a considerable volume of steady

out of jobs in the nondefense industries simply do not possess the skills essential to carry on the work of the defense industries. Nearly three-fourths of the workers in defense industries must be skilled or semi-skilled.

Nor can these demands be met from the ranks of the unemployed. A prolonged period of depression brought two unfortunate results. The training of skilled workers was sadly neglected because there was no demand for them. Unemployment among skilled workers was high and many of them lost their skills. In order to fit them into the present defense pattern, they must go through a period of retraining.

Government Program

The federal government has stepped into the picture to help solve the labor problem. Agencies such as the United States Office of Education, the National Youth Administration, and the Civilian Conservation Corps have been giving preliminary training courses for skilled workers. The vocational schools of the nation have been used for this purpose. At best, however, such courses can give only elementary training which must be supplemented by actual experience in the factories.

Many industries have met the need for skilled workers by installing training courses in their factories. The aircraft industry, for example, has anticipated its future needs by giving such training to workers long in advance of the need.

Other industries have been less farsighted and have used other devices to recruit skilled workers. They have even gone so far as to "pirate" workers from other defense industries by offering them higher wages.

Despite the attempts which have been made to distribute defense orders over a wide area, in accordance with the available labor supply, there is bound to develop a need to transfer workers to certain centers. It has been estimated that several hundred thousand of skilled workers will have to be "imported" before many months have passed.

The central problem is to find the workers and transfer them in as orderly a fashion as possible. It has happened in the past that workers from one locality have moved to another defense center in the hope of obtaining jobs, only to discover that work requiring their particular skills was available at home later.

The United States Employment Service, which maintains more than 1,500 employment offices throughout the nation, has been working on this problem. It has made exhaustive surveys of the available labor supply. Its principal function is to fit jobs and men.

Up to the present, the trouble has been that neither employers nor workers have fully availed themselves of the opportunities afforded by the Employment Service.

It has been suggested that the problem of filling the need for defense workers be solved by giving the United States Employment Service a larger degree of authority; that it be given the principal responsibility of placing workers in defense industries. Such a step would undoubtedly remove much of the confusion resulting from the present disorderly migration of workers.



TRAILER TOWNS have been established here and there by the government to provide temporary shelter for workers and their families. Above, trailers pass through the national capital to be used for defense housing in the South.

placed all strategic raw materials on the priorities list.

There are the 150,000 automobile workers who may lose their jobs through the cut in automobile production. There are the 15,000 workers in the aluminum-fabricating plants, the hundreds of thousands in the factories producing refrigerators, furniture, washing machines, hairpins, etc. The AFL has estimated that 1,000,000 workers in the fabricated-metals industries will be affected by priorities unemployment by October 1. Leon

unemployment because of the great dislocations that are taking place throughout American industry.

The situation we find today presents a paradox. On the one hand, we find a growing army of unemployed coming from the nondefense industries which have had to reduce their output. On the other, there is an acute shortage of skilled workers in certain of the defense industries. Many of those who are thrown



The light our forefathers gave us
THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS

NEWSPAPERS throughout the nation last week took the occasion of National Newspaper Week to emphasize anew the importance of a free press to a free people. The restatement of that faith, the New York Herald-Tribune points out, "has peculiar meaning at this time because in half the world assaults upon it have been made, and successfully made." The editorial continues:

Our faith in a free press is one with our faith in the Bill of Rights, of which it is a part. Our dependence on it is such that we cannot in imagination grasp what it would be to live without it, to be informed only partially, to learn only such truth as is inescapable or as is parceled out by a clique of clever men who call themselves leaders. We cannot put ourselves in the place of subject peoples who have been fed for years on propaganda, poisoned, perverted, lying. We cannot know what it is to have to come by truth the hard way, through the slow disillusionment born of concrete hurts—hunger, bombings, soldiers' wounds; and of moral hurts—cries of children who cannot be hushed with words, revulsion against cruelty, wonder at hate in the eyes of other men.

We will maintain a free press because, maintaining it, we maintain our right to knowledge and to free decision; maintaining it, we will know what we must do to counter any force—of arms or of ideas—which would destroy it.

An Assassin for Hitler?

Why doesn't somebody kill Hitler? This question is often asked, especially when news comes of assassinations of lesser German officials in the conquered countries. H. R. Knickerbocker, well-known foreign correspondent, attempts an answer in the *American* magazine for October. By way of preface he points out that there is ample motive—Hitler has been personally responsible for the death, injury, and humiliation of more civilized white persons than any conqueror before him. Furthermore, it is Knickerbocker's opinion that Hitler's death, by depriving the German people of their inspiration, would reduce the German war effort by half, and would guarantee that Germany would lose the war.

In spite of these facts, relatively few attempts have been made to kill the German dictator. Knickerbocker believes it is because of fear of reprisal in the form of wholesale massacres. He writes:

Any man who attempted to kill Hitler would have to be prepared to sacrifice every human being he knew and loved. If a Jew killed Hitler the Nazis would slaughter every Jew in their domains, and the Nazis now have

under their despotism . . . perhaps six or eight million Jews.

Heinrich Himmler, chief of the Gestapo, once declared that if anybody were to assassinate the Fuehrer, there would be "a massacre such as the world has never seen." He promised that the Gestapo would slaughter every known political opponent, and implied that they would include all the Jews. . . .

I am convinced that the Nazis might try to slaughter them all if a Jew were to kill Hitler, or attempt to kill him. I have seen the Nazis operate, and I know they are capable of utterly exterminating an enemy, as they are now doing to the Poles. . . . Only a person whose family and friends were outside Hitler's reach could be immune to this vengeance.

Among "Backward" Turks

In a recent number of the *National Geographic*, Edward Stevenson Murray tells of the things he learned in a Turkish mountain village at the eastern end of the Black Sea.

He found that the women of orthodox Mohammedan families are still kept secluded in their rooms when they are home and that they still cover their faces with veils when they go out-of-doors. He learned that even grown sons have no money of their own, for they give all their



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF TURKEY
Peasant girls in Eastern Anatolia

earnings to their father, who doles out to each a share of the family income.

But what astonished Mr. Murray most was the arithmetic lesson he was given one day in the village market place. It happened this way:

A peasant came up and asked me what $17\frac{1}{2}$ times 56 equaled. It was a calculation involved in a sale of wheat. I got out pencil and paper, multiplied the figures, and, preening myself a bit on my learning, announced importantly: "980."

"Exactly what I got," exclaimed the peasant, "only the other man wouldn't believe me because I did it in my head."

He then made off with my slip of paper to prove his point. Not a little deflated, I searched him out later and asked him how he did it.

"It is a simple system my father taught me. Now for example, to multiply $17\frac{1}{2}$ times 56, you divide $17\frac{1}{2}$ up into 10, 5, and $2\frac{1}{2}$. Multiply each by 56 and add up the sums."

"Multiplying by 10 is child's play, while 5 is just half of 10, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ just half of 5. Forget the zero. Add 56, 28, and 14 and you have 98. Add the zero—980. Isn't that simple?"

I recalled that the Arabs gave us our system of numerals and greatly improved computation methods. *Bunk!*

The Soviet Union

The Soviet Union is made up of a number of republics. The largest of them, though one of the least known, is the Kazakstan Socialist republic. It lies east of the Ural Mountains and the Caspian Sea, five days by rail from Moscow. In the October issue of *Asia*, Anna Louise Strong

tells of a journey across this remote region:

Twice in these endless lands I woke at night to see flames of factories, roaring of metal plants or oil refineries. Somewhere north of the Aral Sea, somewhere near Emba, a new oil city blazed in the dark. I recalled that Emba is the greatest oil deposit in the world, supposedly undeveloped. Undeveloped? Who knows? I only know that I saw great buildings of an industrial city so new that it was listed neither in the railway time table nor on the map.

Alma Ata is the capital of this region. In it centers the political, economic, cultural life of Kazakstan. In the 10 years since the railway reached it, it has grown from a town of 60,000 to a proud city of 260,000. It boasts of its new apartment houses, its parks, its new state opera and theater. It boasts still more of its 7,000 university students in 14 different faculties, preparing to furnish technical leadership for the growing life of Kazakstan.

Man Marches On

At a time like the present, when there is so much destruction of material and human values, people are inclined to become pessimistic about the whole human struggle for progress. It is easy to conclude that man is no further ahead than he was centuries ago.

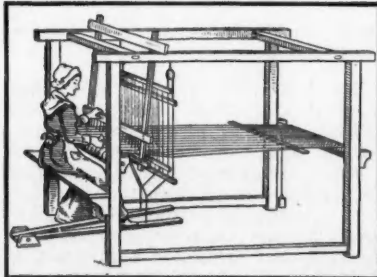
When one is seized by such a pessimism, it is wise to look a little more carefully at the other side of the ledger, and weigh more realistically the concrete social and economic and political gains which man has made. In an article on this subject recently, the *Christian Science Monitor* reminds us of some facts which are quite to the point:

In most countries of the western world, including most of the United States, children are not allowed to work in factories. This is a recent development. Not more than 150 years ago, the cotton mills in parts of England were practically run by pauper children. "These were brought to the mill towns by cart loads."

In 1832, according to an official report, two-fifths of all persons employed in New England factories were between the ages of seven and 16. Most worked 12 hours daily. In 1815 the Dennis Rier family worked as follows at Newburyport, Mass.: "Father for \$5 a week; 16-year-old son for \$2, 13-year-old boy for \$1.50, 12-year-old girl \$1.25, 10-year-old boy 83 cents, eight-year-old girl 75 cents. The hours of employment were 12 or 13 daily, except on the Sabbath."

People by the scores and hundreds were being imprisoned in the United States for debts as late as 100 years ago. In 1810, eleven hundred and fifty men were held in New York jail for debts under \$25 each. Here is the description of an early prison in Connecticut. "In wooden pens, built in an old mine, culprits were immured, with their feet made fast to iron bars, their necks chained to beams in the roof. The darkness was intense, the caves reeked with filth."

The average working week for all jobs 50 years ago was 60 hours. In



A hand loom in use in England before the Industrial Revolution.

1913 it was 54 hours. Now it is about 42. . . . Free obligatory primary education for all was first established in the United States in 1852. At the time of the American Revolution a large majority of the Americans were completely illiterate. . . . Not without a shock Americans recall that as late as 1692 no fewer than 20 men and women were executed in the state of Massachusetts on the charge of witchcraft. Has man progressed?

The Real Issue

As incidents at sea have multiplied in recent weeks, the United States has moved closer to open and declared war against Germany. In her column, Miss Dorothy Thompson deplores the fact that we should allow our national policies to be determined by occasional sinkings of American vessels. As Miss Thompson sees it:



Dorothy Thompson

The basic question is not whether the Nazis sink our ships carrying our goods in waters we have declared essential to American defense. The basic question is whether the United States can preserve its institutions, insure its prosperity, and maintain its equality as a great nation if the Nazis, allied with the Italian Fascists and the Japanese, control Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The question is whether, were Britain defeated or forced into a peace of collaboration, we could even demobilize our armed forces, or be safe from blockade, and from political, economic, and eventually armed intervention in Latin America.

Miss Thompson's opinion is that if Hitler constitutes a grave menace to the United States, we ought not to wait a moment further for new "incidents" to develop. Instead, we should enter the war while Britain and Russia are still offering resistance.

Something to Think About

Defense Program and Labor

1. Why is there a growing shortage of certain types of labor and increasing unemployment among others?
2. What are some of the more important problems created by the migration of labor?
3. What is meant by "priorities unemployment" and how many persons will be affected by it before the end of the year, according to Leon Henderson?
4. What is the federal government doing to cope with the dislocations of workers caused by the defense program?
5. Name the steps taken by various government agencies to train defense workers.

North Africa

1. How large is Libya in comparison with Italy? What are its principal advantages?
2. Why is control of Egypt of such great importance?
3. Who is General Weygand and why are the United States and England anxious not to antagonize him?
4. Name the three French possessions in North Africa.
5. Why would it be to Hitler's advantage to control North Africa?

Pronunciations

Castillo—kah-steel'yoe
Darlan—dar'lahn'
Pétain—pay'tan'
Saigon—si'gon'—i as in ice, o as in go
Tunisia—too-nish'i-a
Vichy—vee'shee'
Maxime Weygand—mak'seem' vay'gahn'